



## **TRACKING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRO BONO DECLARATION FOR THE AMERICAS AND MEASURING ITS REGIONAL IMPACT**

The Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice of the New York City Bar and Latin Lawyer have partnered to undertake a survey on the implementation of the Pro Bono Declaration for the Americas (PBDA). Five years since its launch in Mexico City in January 2008, the PBDA has become the cornerstone document for lawyers and law firms in Latin America that engage in pro bono activities that benefit the disadvantaged and marginalized. Adhered to by more than 500 law firms throughout the Western hemisphere, the Declaration commits signatories to a minimum average of 20 hours of pro bono work per lawyer per year. This translates into a bank of over 600,000 hours that lawyers have pledged to rendering their expertise and services free of charge to those most in need in their countries and across borders.

The partnership between the Vance Center and Latin Lawyer marks a milestone in tracking the effectiveness and impact the PBDA has had in Latin America. The Vance Center and Latin Lawyer will develop a survey that will be distributed to law firms throughout the region that will be invited to share information on their progress in implementing pro bono within their firms. It will provide signatories with the opportunity to voluntarily disclose statistics on their pro bono work, such as total hours rendered per year, percentage of partners and associates involved in pro bono work, number and types of projects undertaken, sources of work, and level of financial contribution to local referral organizations. Most importantly, law firms will have the chance to share information on high impact public interest law work, and success stories in strengthening access to justice.

The Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice mobilizes the global legal profession to promote social justice, rule of law and democratic values and principles. We do this through three programs: our Pro Bono Program; Cross-Border Solutions Program; and Pro Bono Referral Program. We perform our work in partnership with private- and public-sector lawyers, members of the judiciary, law schools, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), primarily in Africa and Latin America. Established formally in 2002 as a 501(c)(3) under the auspices of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York Fund, Inc. (the "Fund"), the Vance Center is located at the New York City Bar Association (the "Association"), is governed by the Association's Vance Center Committee and the Fund's board of directors. The Vance Center's name honors Cyrus R. Vance, former U.S. Secretary of State and past president of the Association.

Latin Lawyer is the leading business law resource for Latin America. An independent team of journalists provides news, as well as analysis of deals, cases and legal and policy developments across the region, through a magazine published 10 times per year and a daily news email briefing. The journalists also research the Latin Lawyer 250 –the most authoritative guide to leading business law firms in Latin America, which is published annually and reviews the legal marketplace in 17 national Latin American jurisdictions, complete with analysis of the Latin American practices of international law firms. Latin Lawyer also holds regular conferences that bring together lawyers from law firms and the in-house community, as well as regulators and those from the business community in key practice areas. For many years Latin Lawyer has highlighted the pro bono work done by Latin American law firms in the magazine and tracked their advancement of as part of its research for the Latin Lawyer 250 and through its own pro bono survey, conducted annually since 2007. Latin Lawyer also raises money for pro bono activities through its annual charity awards dinner in São Paulo.

For in-house lawyers, Latin Lawyer also provides content under its LACCA brand (Latin American Corporate Counsel Association) and produces the LACCA handbook, a directory of biographical details for all LACCA members, listed by country and arranged in alphabetical order by company.